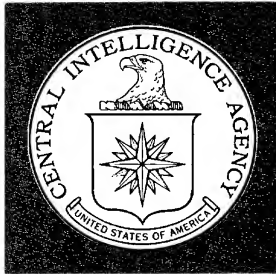


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CIA / SAVA / WIND 70107



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 17 October 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

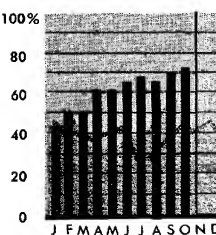
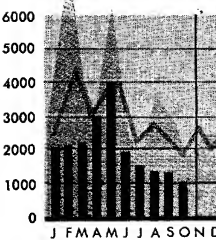
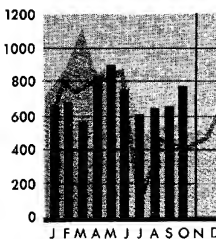
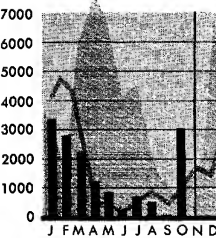
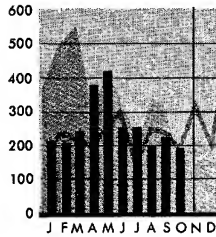
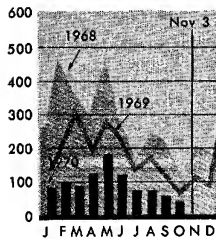
For the President Only

~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

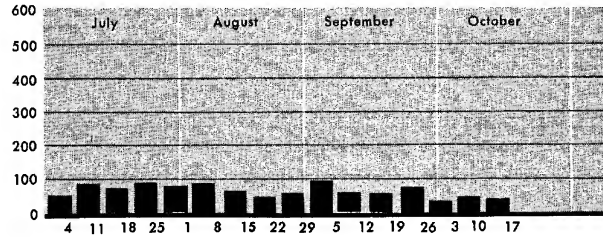
Weekly average for each month



JULY-OCTOBER 1970

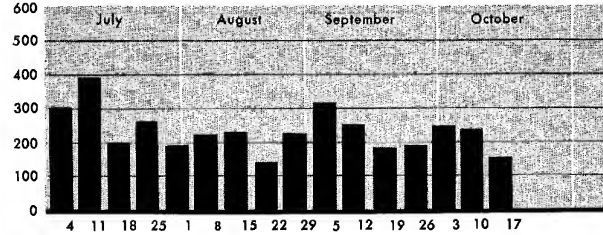
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



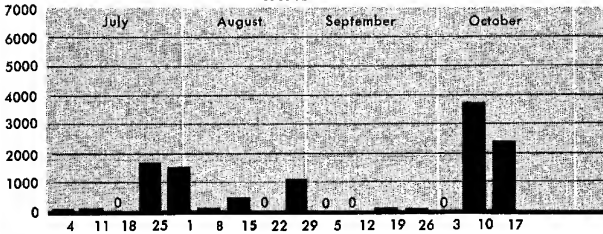
decreased slightly to 41 from last week's 46.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



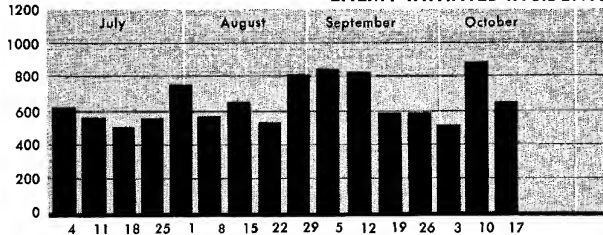
dropped sharply to 159 from 249 the previous week. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



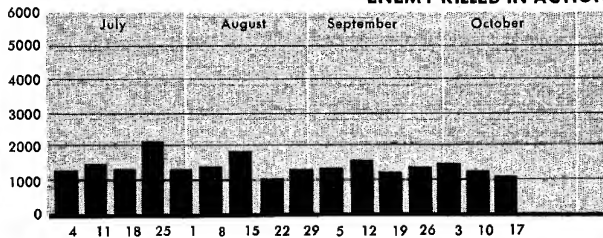
stand at four groups with a combined strength of 2,300. The total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 is estimated to be some 6,100.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



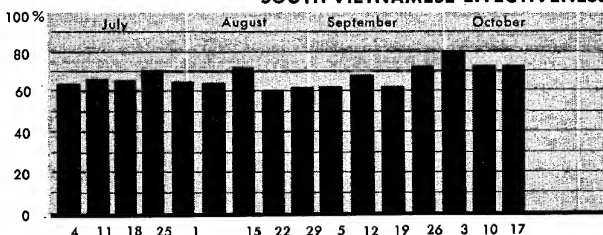
declined to 641 from last week's 874.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



continued downward to 1083 from last week's 1179, reflecting the low level of combat activity.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces remained at 73%, the same as last week.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

After a brief flurry of activity in the Delta at the beginning of the week, the lull in enemy-initiated ground combat returned throughout South Vietnam. Thus, phase two of the enemy's fall campaign which never really got off the ground now appears to have ended.

Two months of effort in north Laos were climaxed this week when General Vang Pao's forces reached their prime objective and captured the airstrip at Ban Na, the strategically and tactically important strong point southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. In south Laos activity, irregulars reoccupied a minor Bolovens Plateau paramilitary site and continued to parry enemy thrusts at their major sites, PS-26 and PS-38.

During the first week of the newly established Khmer Republic, military activity was at a lower level than usual with only minor harassing attacks throughout the country. The Kompong Thom relief column remained in place along Route 6 while southwest of Phnom Penh, the Communists have offered little resistance to the government's new multi-battalion operation along Routes 2 and 3.

Enemy Infiltration

Personnel infiltration toward South Vietnam continues at a brisk pace as four battalion-size groups with a combined strength of 2,332 were observed during the week. This raises the total number of infiltrators detected entering the pipeline since 1 October 1970 to approximately 6,100. The current rate of confirmed infiltration, nearly one group per day, is the highest since January of this year and is considerably higher than during corresponding periods in 1968 and 1969. It is, however, still well below the peak levels of 1968 when over two groups a day were sent south.

South Vietnam Developments

In the Lower House election of officers and committee chairmen last week, the pro-government majority swept almost all positions and put itself in a good position to control Lower House activity during the coming year. A respected opposition deputy was elected First Deputy Chairman and a sharp critic of the GVN won the post of Second Comptroller; all other posts were won either by independents or pro-GVN deputies. Charges that the executive bought votes appear to be supported [REDACTED] a Thieu aide was ready in early October to grease the way with the equivalent of U.S. \$850 for each of 76 cooperative deputies.

25X1X4

During a discussion on 13 October concerning possible peace initiatives by the GVN, both President Thieu and Vice President Ky seemed to accept the idea of eventual Communist participation in the government and the possibility of a new constitution to replace the present one. [REDACTED]

25X1C

Thieu said that the GVN could accept a standstill cease fire, regroupment and withdrawal of troops within 4-6 months, followed by elections for the National Assembly in which the NLF would participate under a non-Communist label. These steps would be accomplished under international supervision, although Thieu also mentioned an electoral council to manage the elections. Thieu noted that the newly elected assembly would prepare a new constitution and arrange for further elections. He left unanswered the question of who would rule South Vietnam during the elections and immediately thereafter. Ky suggested the possibility that a provisional coalition government could rule for the three or four months during the period from withdrawal to elections. While no conclusions were reached, both Thieu and Ky appeared to be somewhat more flexible than they had been previously in their approach to Communist representation in the government and on the question of a new constitution.

~~Top Secret~~